

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are currently pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following groups:

- Group I Claim 24, drawn to a method of delivering fentanyl, classified in class 424, subclass 449.
- Group II Claim 25, drawn to a method of delivering buprenorphine, classified in class 424, subclass 449.
- Group III Claims 35-39, drawn to a method of adjusting the therapeutic dosage of fentanyl, classified in class 424, subclass 449.
- Group IV Claims 40-44, drawn to a method of adjusting the therapeutic dosage of buprenorphine, classified in class 424, subclass 449.

The Examiner asserts that claims 1-23 and 26 link Groups I and II, and claims 29-34 and 26 link Groups III and IV.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects Group II, the subject matter of claim 25, which is drawn to a method of delivering buprenorphine. This election is being made without prejudice. Applicant fully reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of any non-elected group in one or more subsequent related applications.

Applicant notes that upon allowance of linking claims, the restriction requirement as to the linked invention shall be withdrawn and any claims depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claims should be entitled to examination in the instant application.

Applicant respectfully requests that the above remarks be entered and made of record in the file history of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 6, 2006


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